

New Combinations in the genus Aphanostephus (Astereae - Asteraceae)

B. L. Turner and Arnold Birdsong

The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712

To accommodate the nomenclatural needs of several workers concerned with floristic studies in Mexico, the following new combinations within Aphanostephus are proposed:

1. A. ramosissimus DC. var. humilis (Benth.) Turner & Birdsong, comb. nov. Based upon Leucopsidium humile Benth., *Plantae Hartwegianae* p. 18. 1839. (= Aphanostephus humilis [Benth.] A. Gray).

This is the large headed, more western, variety which Shinnars (1946, in a revisional treatment, *Wrightia* 1:95-121.) treated as two species, A. humilis (type from Guanajuato, Mexico) and A. arizonicus (type from Gila Valley, Arizona). The smaller-headed, typical variety ramosissimus occurs primarily in the northeastern portions of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila Mexico, extending northward to Oklahoma. There is an extensive region of intergradation between the two taxa, as noted by Shinnars in his revision. Subsequent field work throughout the regions concerned strongly suggest that only a single species with intergrading regional populations exist. As treated by us, the variety also includes A. jaliscensis Shinnars.

2. A. ramosissimus var. ramosus (DC.) Turner & Birdsong, comb. nov. Based upon Keerlia ramosa DC., *Prodr.* 5:310. 1836. (= Aphanostephus ramosus [DC.] A. Gray).

This is the more tuberous-rooted, more montane, variety which occurs in southcentral Mexico. It includes A. pachyrrhizus Shinnars. Several workers, including Shinnars have described the roots as perennial, but it appears to be only facultatively so. Examination of plants in the field shows this to be a variable character, some plants appearing annual, some perhaps biennial (thickened tap roots) and some which might be construed as short-lived perennial. The taxon intergrades northward into the variety humilis.

A general treatment of the four species which comprise the genus Aphanostephus will be forthcoming shortly.